

Please amend the second paragraph on page 1 of the specification in the manner indicated:

This application is also related to the disclosure of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/774,002 filed on the same date as this application by Sumida and Pepper ~~(attorney docket 618915-3)~~ entitled "Optically Pumped Active Mirror with Improved Performance and Reduced Parasitics," which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the second whole paragraph on page 9 of the specification in the manner indicated:

The annular rings 22 and the gain regions 12 are all depicted as being circular in the figures; however, it is not required that they be circular as any convenient geometric pattern should work. Also, the annular rings 22 are all depicted as being closed rings; however, the annular rings need not define complete rings (or other geometric shapes), but they should each encompass a substantial portion of the underlying gain region 12. The term "annular-like" is used in the claims to embrace the concept that the annular rings need not necessarily be either circular or form complete rings.